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Scholars Mount Campaign to from Avoiding Freedom of In

By Anne C. Roark

WASHINGTON

Historians, political scientists, and other scholars are launching a campaign against the Central Intelligence Agency's efforts to free itself from public scrutiny.

Unless prompt, concerted efforts are made to block the C.I.A.'s efforts, representatives of several scholarly associations told *The Chronicle*, university research into current political and diplomatic affairs will be nearly wiped out.

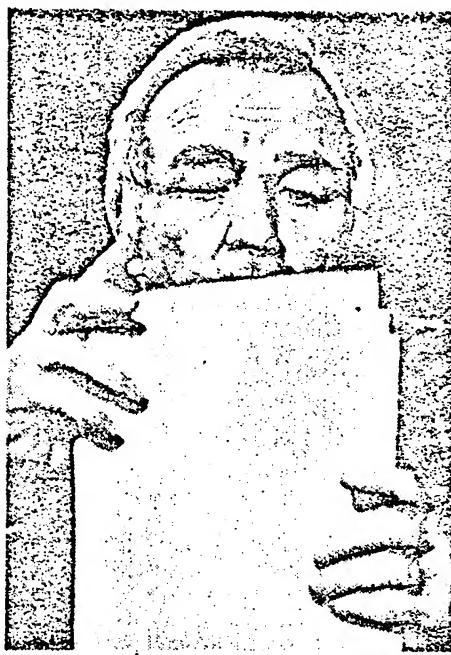
At issue is a proposed exemption for the C.I.A. from coverage by the Freedom of Information Act, the federal law that provides public access to government documents. The exemption is one of many proposals in a proposed charter for the C.I.A. that would give the President more flexibility in ordering intelligence missions.

Bill Would Extend Exemption

While highly sensitive intelligence material is now exempt from public disclosure, the legislation being considered by Congress would extend the exemption to all of the C.I.A.'s operational and technical files. The only exception would be for people who request information on themselves.

So far, the Organization of American Historians and several other scholarly groups have spoken out against the exemption provisions in the C.I.A. charter. Many others are expected to follow suit soon.

A grassroots lobbying campaign is already under way, some sources say. In



WIDE WORLD

Stansfield Turner says C.I.A. needs flexibility in dealing with universities.

Maryland, for example, university professors are sending letters to their Senators and Representatives, urging them to oppose any further limitations on public access to government documents.

In most places, the efforts are being coordinated by historians, although some legal scholars and a few researchers from other disciplines are expected to join.

"I have very strong feelings about this

records from disclosure would virtually "close down serious scholarship in recent contemporary history."

John Rosenberg, a historian and an adviser to the Organization of American Historians, described the proposed exemption as "frightening" and full of "implications far more serious" than the C.I.A. has admitted.

The exemption that is causing scholars so much concern is included in a bill, S 2284, introduced last month by Sen. Walter D. Huddleston, Democrat of Kentucky; Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Republican of Maryland; and other members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Additional Bills Being Considered

Other bills, now being considered by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, also would lift many of the restraints imposed on the C.I.A. in the 1970's, when it was discovered that the agency had been involved in questionable activities both at home and abroad.

Most of the proposals now being considered would exempt the agency from the Freedom of Information Act, but few of them go as far as C.I.A. officials would like.

In testimony before the Senate intelligence committee last month, C.I.A. Director Stansfield Turner urged Congress to extend the exemptions to the National Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other intelligence groups.

"The same problems which face the C.I.A. in this regard face the other intelligence-community components as well," Admiral Turner said.

Frank C. Carlucci, deputy director of central intelligence, explained in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights how enemy agents could make use of the Freedom of Information Act.

Moreover, Mr. Carlucci said, the requirement to make certain documents public under the act has left many U.S. intelligence sources with the "impression" that their secrets

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